

Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 184481

FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOL RPT PRETORIA 4119 SENT ACTION SECSTATE USUN NEW YORK &
DURBAN INFO DAR ES SALAAM, GABORONE, LAGOS, LILONGWE, LUSAKA &
MAPUTO DTD 20 JUL 78

QUOTE: UNCLAS PRETORIA 4119

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, PINT, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: SMITH PRAISES VORSTER, SLAMS US AND UK,
AND IS HECKLED AT MEETING

1. PRESS ACCOUNTS STATE THAT PM SMITH ADDRESSED A BY-ELECTIONS
MEETING IN HIGHLANDS ON JULY 19 AND, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS,
TOLD THE AUDIENCE THAT PEOPLE SHOULD NOT TRY TO "CREATE ILL FEELINGS"
BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA. HE SAID "THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERN-
MENT
HAS ENCOURAGED US TO COME TO A SETTLEMENT OF OUR PROBLEMS...
OBVIOUSLY THE ONLY WAY WE WOULD SETTLE THIS PROBLEM WAS ACCEPTING
MAJORITY RULE. (VORSTER) HAS PASSED ON TO ME THAT PRESSURES WHICH
THE REST OF THE WORLD HAVE PUT ON HIM. SOUTH AFRICA IS THE ONLY
GOVERNMENT TRADING WITH US AND SUPPLYING US WITH OIL.WE NEED TO HAVE
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A LITTLE RESPECT FOR THEM".

2. SMITH ALSO REPORTEDLY ATTACHED THE US AND UK FOR
THEIR "INCOMPREHENSIBLE" ACTION OF NOT LIFTING SANCTIONS
WHICH, HE SAID, WOULD PRESS THE PATRIOTIC FRONT" TO DROP ITS
MILITARY
POSTURING.. HE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND THE LACK OF WESTERN SUPPORT

FOR RHODESIA'S GOVERNMENT WHEN IT WAS TRYING TO PRESERVE A
DEMOCRATIC AND PRO-WESTERN COUNTRY.

3. PRESS ACCOUNTS ALSO REPORT THAT, "FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE
UDI", SMITH WAS PUBLICLY HECKLED BY WHITES. SMITH WAS GREETED BY
BOOS FROM THE CROWD OF 300 AS HE ENTERED THE HALL AND WAS MET WITH
HARSH QUESTIONING AND JEERING DURING HIS ADDRESS. HECKLERS
REPORTEDLY SHOUTED ABUSE SUCH AS "YOU'RE FINISHED, PACK YOUR
BAGS" AND " WIN THE WAR, THAT'S ALL". ONE ELDERLY WOMAN ASKED "
WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO PEOPLE LIKE ME?". SMITH EXPRESSED HIS
"UNDERSTANDING" OF HER FEELINGS, ONE QUESTIONER ALLEGEDLY
RECEIVED NO RESPONSE WHEN HE ASKED IF SMITH WOULD DONATE TEN PERCENT
OF THE TAKE FROM HIS MEMORIS TO THE WAR VICTIMS. ANOTHER MADE SMITH
ANGRY WHEN HE IMPLIED THAT HIS WIFE, JANET SMITH, MIGHT BE INVOLVED
IN THE CURRENT MONEY SWINDLE SCANDAL. ACCORDING TO NEWS ACCOUNTS,
SMITH TOLD REPORTERS AFTERWARDS THAT THE VERBAL ABUSE WAS
"ALL IN GOOD FUN". EDMONDSON UNQUOTE VANCE

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